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Letters

to the Editor of The Times

CPYRGHT

STATINTL

C.I.A.-Aided Projects

To the Editor:

Tom Wicker is to be congratulated for drawing the right moral from the recent exposures of C.I.A. financing for academic projects and student activities overseas. Since these points have been so largely missed by other commentators in the rush to support or attack the C.I.A., they deserve amplification.

In almost every instance the projects and activities supported by the C.I.A. have in no sense involved espionage or subversive activities. On the contrary, they have for the most part provided financing for liberal-minded, intelligent Americans whose work deserves support. At the same time, this work benefits the

security of the United States only in the sense that American

interests are always served by the best intellectual and social efforts of its citizens and its institutions of higher learning.

The only reason a number of such academic projects and student undertakings have been financed by the C.I.A. is because the Congress of the United States, pursuing false values, is prepared to give the C.I.A. almost blank-check appropriations, whereas other departments of the Government are starved for funds to support international education.

The failure of the last Congress to appropriate funds for the International Education Act is a dramatic case in point.

It is quite wrong that Government support for research and education in international affairs should have to be funded by an agency of the Government which is concerned with national security in a much narrower sense. The remedy lies with Congress to promote America's intellectual world leadership in a manner appropriate to a free, mature society.

THOMAS M. FRANCK
New York, March 14, 1967

The writer is the director of the Center for International Studies at New York University.

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